

SHORT-CUT TO THE END OF YOUR GIFT LIST
To quickly enjoy that grand and glorious feeling of being all done with your Christmas shopping, avail yourself of the helpful suggestions in The Gift-

Spotter. This handily-arranged selection of appropriate gifts for everyone is featured in the Torrance Press Classified. Let it help you end your shopping worries fast. See Page 51.

MANHATTAN PLAYERS STAGE SUCCESSFUL SHOWING OF 'BUS STOP'

Virgil Blessing may have been "left out in the cold" in "Bus Stop," but the Manhattan Players certainly are not after finishing a successful run of the William Inge play last weekend.

Bob Connor, popular, talented director and actor with the Players and the Santa Monica Theatre guild, gave excellent direction to the small cast of eight. This was reflected in the overall performance which was a refreshing experience, staged brilliantly and interpreted skillfully by the cast.

Convincing Actor

Jon Douglas, who has an extensive little theatre, radio and television background, was a convincing Bo Decker as he begrudgingly changed from the bungling, aggressive cowboy to a somewhat compassionate, and understanding suitor for Cherie the night club "chanteuse." His life up to that point had been "just one blamed catastrophe after another."

Particularly entertaining was his milk drinking fete in the first act.

For twelve performances Douglas downed a quart of milk in one gulp. If nothing else, it proved that acting can be a healthy experience as well as a rewarding one.

Connie Willis, cast as Cherie, the pretty object of Bo's so called affection, was well

suited for the part. Had she been more brazen in the beginning, however, her sweet qualities would have stood out more at the end. Connie won West Actress award for her role in "Picnic" last spring and has appeared with many little theatre groups.

A key role in the play, which strangely enough, has been left out of the movie version, was that of Dr. Gerald Lyman. Movie producers probably figure that Marilyn Monroe is a suitable substitute for the mind and philosophy of the playwright. Ed Slani gave a sensitive and sympathetic portrayal of the lonely intellectual searching for happiness. The notable change in audience reaction from sympathy to disdain after his ulterior motives are discovered, bears this out.

Comic Relief

Audrey Epstein, the cafe owner, Grace, gave interesting and comical dimension to the proceedings as she tempted and "entertained" the bus driver, played by Bud Wells. She has a theatrical background in Illinois little theatre work and last year won Best Bit Actress award at the Santa Monica theatre. Wells just finished "Come Back Little Sheba" for the players and has been active in amateur theatre and radio work.

Bill Kraemer, versatile actor with little theatres in the South Bay and in Frankfurt, Germany, was well cast in the character part of Virgil Blessing. Bo's elderly companion. The characterization, complete with western drawl and chewing tobacco, gave depth and meaning to this strong supporting role. Memorable was his pathetic and moving delivery of the third act curtain line, "Well, I guess that's what happens to some people."

Natural Interpretation

Roberta Walker, who will be remembered as the Ingenue in "Sheba" and for the lead in Chapel theatre's "The Lady's Not for Burning," seemed adequate and natural in the part of Elma, the sweet, young waitress.

Motion picture stunt actor, Jack McClure, ("Pete Kelly's Blues," "Square Jungle") carried out sheriff duties to a final knock down, drag out (literally) with the young trouble maker, Bo. The bushy, burly actor threw his weight around, not unnecessarily, to give a creditable performance.—D.P.

'Goodbye, My Fancy' Full of Fun, Frolic

Despite some first-night boobos, "Goodbye, My Fancy," presented last week-end by the Palos Verdes Players, proved a rollicking and popular hit.

To begin with, the players are to be commended for selecting the Fay Kanin play.

First of all, the theme of principle vs. expediency, conviction vs. convenience is of perennial interest. What makes this little pill of morality so easy to swallow—and even so desirable—is the delicious comedy background of the plot itself and the fact that the moralizing teaches by delighting.

The basic ideas are stated sharply and with a commendable economy of words.

'Life' Goes To A Party

The cast gave an over-all fine and even performance. Running away with the play, however, was the husband-wife team of Dick and Julie O'Neil who played the "Life" photographer and secretary to Congresswoman Agatha Reed, respectively.

Their stage success is due to three factors—the inherent funniness of the role itself, the talent of the actors, and good casting on the part of Director Ken Sutton (which latter remark holds true for the other roles as well). Margaret Middleton (Congresswoman Agatha Reed)

played with believability. Noteworthy was the warmth of her personality and the poise and ease with which she moved through the play.

Bob Longacre (President James Merrill) was appropriately formal, dignified and academically stuffy.

Adding sparkle to their supporting roles were Lillah Beauchamp whose Ellen Griswold came to life with all her bird brained flightiness and social superficiality.

Hubby Claude Griswold (played by George Tremble) was every inch her match in Babitt-unconventionality.

Lisbeth Ludwig was a self-important Miss Shackelford; Gertrude Beard was a sweet, timid old maid who is sheltered by her ivory PhD tower; Bill Martin, Prof. Dingley, is her perfectly compatible male counterpart.

Young Stars Particularly commended.

able performances were turned in by Gayle Sheppard (Ginny Merrill), Gail Merrimer (America, Susan), Clarisse (Frances McHale), and Bonnie Lindstrom (Carol). Their talents triumphed over their astonishing youth (from 12-16 years old).

Gayle (13 years) did particularly well in upholding one of the longer roles. (Ginny, the president's daughter).

Lynn Nason (Mary Nell) was College Josie personified. Lynn played with delightful abandon. Also noteworthy for his performance as the defeatist liberal professor was Franz Riegler.

Among a number of humorous scenes which delightfully satirized certain aspects of college life was the one of the reception committee welcoming Agatha Reed.

The girls (Gayle Sheppard, Lynn Nason, Frances McHale, Bonnie Lindstrom, and Durfee Parkins amusingly captured the academic vacuum of their respective majors and interests.

Finally, Irene Kinsey, is to be praised for her fine set design and tasteful costuming.—R.G.

READ THIS!
BIFOCAL WEARERS!

Why be handicapped with that aggravating "middle distance blur" that most people experience with bifocals? If you have difficulty in reading merchandise labels in stores, in distinguishing book titles in the library, in seeing all the playing cards on the table, etc., you'll marvel at the "new sight" that **CONTINUOUS VISION LENSES** will bring you! These are the modern glasses that assure clear vision of ALL distances—without head bobbing and neck craning. Let us demonstrate—without obligation—why you will feel better and work better when you change to **CONTINUOUS VISION LENSES**. Not expensive; easy terms. Come in soon!

★ Open Fridays until 7 p.m. Saturdays Until 1:00
★ Pensioners Welcome
★ Liberal Credit Terms

★ 29 Years in Harbor Area

DRS. SOSS AND KLINE OPTOMETRISTS

1268 SARTORI, Torrance
Phone FA. 8-6602
810 AVALON, Wilmington
Phone TE. 4-5464

When That Feeling of "GIVING" OVERWHELMS YOU!

Dash over to the Seconds Dept. You'll find something for everybody—something everybody will love!

Most beautiful handprinted textiles are sold at such reasonable prices. Tablecloths for every type setting—for every table size. Special Christmas cloths. Table mats and naps. Beach towels, large and larger—the kind the menfolk delight in. Terry yardage for robes, taffeta for dinner dresses... wonderful washable cottons and a new rayon mixture that's the perfect fabric. Christmas skirts for the base of your Christmas tree are on sale. Skirts for you and the teen-age daughter (some with Christmas motifs) easily made (we furnish sewing instruction). Plain dyed tablecloths, too, in luscious colors.

SECONDS DEPT. CALIFORNIA HAND PRINTS, INC.
1559 Pacific Coast Highway (at 16th St.) HERMOSA BEACH

Arthur Godfrey says:

Give the only pen with the Piggy-Back Refill!

EVERY PEN IN A FREE GIFT BOX!

PAPER MATE CAPRI
Gleaming silver finish cap and smart Tenite barrel in your choice of 4 exciting colors. \$1.95

PAPER MATE CHROME CAPRI
Here's luxury at a popular price. Sparkling jewelry finish, famous slim line design. \$2.95

Every pen with the exclusive built-in spare refill!

2 Silvered Points
2 Ink Supplies!

AND THEY'RE PIGGY-BACK!

PAPER MATE
pens please everyone
McCOWN DRUG STORES
— 2 Stores Serve You —
1327 El Prado, Torrance • Pacific Coast Hwy., at Western, Lomita

OFFICIALS RECEIVE DEGREES

Two Torrance school administrators received their doctor of education degrees as a result of work done with the Little Red School House plan in Torrance.

The degrees were bestowed by the University of Southern California upon Walter Rewoldt, director of instruction for the Torrance Unified School District, and Warren Hamilton, director of special services.

The Little Red School House project originated here with Rewoldt who was then joined by Hamilton in making the evaluation.

The basic idea is that children learn more from those who are different than from those who are similar.

Students were placed in classes that contained three grades (multi-grade) with an age range of three or more years and then compared with pupils in single-grade classes.

The findings favored the multi-grade system.

The experiment was tried on a limited scale at Walteria elementary school and will continue this year.

Director of instruction in the Torrance Unified School District for the past nine years, Rewoldt formerly held administrative positions in the Montebello, Calif., and Grand Junction, Colo., school systems. He taught for 12 years in Colorado schools.

A native of Nebraska, he received both bachelor's and Master's degrees from Colorado State college. He is a former summer session lecturer at Pepperdine college.

Hamilton has served as director of special services in local schools since 1949. He formerly taught in elementary and high schools in Indiana and Ohio, and served three years as a pilot during World War II.

Born in Iowa, he graduated from Franklin High school, Los Angeles, and holds a bachelor's degree from Antioch College, Ohio, and master's degree from the University of Southern California.

Storm Drain To Be Fixed In Strip Area

Elimination of the flooded condition of the 220th St. and Normandie Ave. intersection is expected to result from an improvement contract awarded this past week, it was announced today by Los Angeles City council president, John S. Gibson.

Mitar Nikcevic was lowest of five bidders on the proposal to enlarge the existing storm drain under the Pacific Electric tracks and under Normandie Ave., which will carry run off waters to the open ditch drain east of Normandie. His offer of \$11,175 was about two per cent below engineers estimates.

Authority for immediate start of the work on the railway right-of-way has been issued by the Board of Public Works and it is expected that the successful contractor will be able to complete the job ahead of the rainy season.

Gibson recommended this drain improvement as part of the overall improvement development of the Shoestring area South of Carson.

DON'T MISS OUT on good gift-ideas, many of them offered nowhere else! Read The Gift-Spotter in Torrance Press Classified Page 51.

LAWSON'S DIAMOND And WATCH VALUES!

ON LOW EASY TERMS
Immediate Delivery

BOULOVA
Ladies & Men's Your Choice 15c Weekly 2975

17 JEWELS
Ladies & Men's Your Choice 15c Weekly 1695

ELGIN
Ladies & Men's Your Choice \$1.00 Weekly 3975

WITNAUER
Ladies & Men's Your Choice 75c Weekly 2975

25 JEWELS
Automatic Reg. 69.95 \$1.00 Weekly 3995

1/2K DIAMOND
Reg. \$175. Both For \$200 Weekly 9900

7 DIAMOND SET
Reg. 200. Both For \$200 Weekly 12500

10 Diamond Set
Dream Girl Both For \$200 Weekly 9900

12 Diamond Set
Reg. 300. Both For \$400 Weekly 19700

5 DIAMOND
Wedding Ring Reg. 69.95 \$1.00 Weekly 4995

1317 EL PRADO TORRANCE
Phone: FA. 8-4313 or NE. 6-7765
Lawson's JEWELLERS
OPEN EVENINGS TIL 9 UNTIL CHRISTMAS